

WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 18, 2012

Support for NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program Expressed by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

On May 18, 2012 the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to send a letter to NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco expressing their strong support for NOAA's California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program. As the advisory council's approved letter notes, B-WET funding provides a unique opportunity for sanctuary staff to work with local NGOs and businesses to implement the best ideas originating from local K-12 educators. B-WET grants to local schools and organizations have helped thousands of students in Santa Barbara and Ventura county school districts receive excellent watershed education experiences. The advisory council's letter also points out that during the 2010-2011 school year, B-WET funds in the sanctuary community:

- Fostered a sense of environmental stewardship in 2,689 students of elementary, junior high and high school grade levels;
- Helped shape over 120 teachers of environmental and science classes to more effectively serve students and teach watershed science;
- Directly decreased trash production in 11 classrooms and removed over 100 pounds of debris from our watershed during student led clean-ups;
- Planted over 300 native plants in restoration efforts; and
- Provided over 2000 students the opportunity to visit and explore a watershed first hand, and afforded many students multiple opportunities for field explorations of local beaches, creeks, and the Channel Islands.

The advisory council's letter also highlights how the California B-WET program has been vital to helping the Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) program grow and succeed.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council supports idea of using California Cap-And-Trade Auction Proceeds to Incentivize Slowing Ships, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Increasing Whale Protections

At a public meeting on May 18, 2012, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council learned about an opportunity to suggest ideas to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on how cap-and-trade auction proceeds might be invested to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Brian Shafritz with the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District addressed the advisory council and spoke about a conceptual idea that his agency is planning to suggest to CARB, and that sanctuary staff were also interested in the investment of auction proceeds to create an incentive-based program for slowing ships. Reduced ship speeds would not only lower greenhouse gas emissions off the coast of California, but could enhance protections to whales. The advisory council expressed interest and support for the idea given their history of working on the issue of whale ship strikes, and their past recommendations to the sanctuary that incentive-based

approaches be investigated. By a vote of 17 to 1, the advisory council adopted a motion asking that their Executive Committee draft a letter asking CARB to consider allocating some of the auction proceeds to an incentive program designed to reduce the speed of ships, and further asking that the advisory council's support be voiced at a CARB public meeting in July in Sacramento, California. Details about the CARB cap and trade auction program and public consultation process are online at

http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/notice_investment_plan_auction_proceeds.pdf.

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Joint Advisory Council Meeting

June 7th, 2012

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils approve reports and recommendations from Vessel Spill Response Technologies Joint Working Group

The Vessel Spill Response Technologies Working Group presented the final report and recommendations to the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones advisory councils at the joint meeting in Point Reyes. The working group involved stakeholders representing the response, conservation, and science communities as well as relevant local, state and federal agencies.. To understand the complexity and dynamics of the fate of oil, dispersants, and the potential impacts of dispersed oil on sanctuary resources, the working group conducted a series of meetings over the past year with presentations from regional experts in the areas of toxicology, oceanography, and biological resources. The reports and recommendations from this working group were approved by both advisory councils and a motion was adopted to send the recommendations to Sanctuary Superintendents Dan Howard and Maria Brown. Copies of the working groups report can be downloaded from the web. Vessel Spill Response Technologies:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_06/jwg_spills.pdf

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils approve reports and recommendations from Vessel Strikes and Acoustic Impacts Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group (JWG) on Vessel Strikes and Acoustic Impacts included representatives from conservation groups, the shipping industry, and the scientific community. Additional technical expertise was provided by staff from government agencies, conservation groups and scientists. The purpose of the JWG was to recommend actions to reduce ship strike and ocean noise impacts to whales in the two sanctuaries. The final report and recommendations are available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_06/jwg_strikes.pdf.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

April 26, 2012

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council advocates for continued budget support for the California Bay Watershed Education and Training (CA B-WET) program

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council wrote a letter to NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco expressing the advisory council's appreciation for restoring funds to NOAA's California Bay Watershed Education and Training (CA B-WET) program in this

fiscal year's budget. The advisory council further requested the continuation of program funding at levels consistent with FY12 and more generously in the future when and if budgets allow. The advisory council's letter also provided local information about the success of the B-WET program and emphasizes its value in the northern San Francisco Bay Area.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

June 7, 2012

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Urges Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to Evaluate the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area for Sanctuary Designation

At the June 7th advisory council meeting in Point Reyes, Gulf of the Farallones staff gave an update on their evaluation of the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area for possible inclusion in sanctuary boundaries. The Exclusion Area has been identified by local researchers as primary habitat of several ecologically important species, such as Sevengill Shark, Harbor Porpoise, Gray Whale and Common Murre. The area also has significant oceanographic, aesthetic, cultural and recreational values. The advisory council moved that sanctuary staff should continue to evaluate whether this area needs greater protection and should be included in sanctuary boundaries. They also moved that sanctuary staff research potential options for boundary modifications and/or naming newly established sanctuary waters.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

April 19, 2012

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approves letter in support of reactivation of the sanctuary Site Evaluation List

In April, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a letter in support of the reactivation of the sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL). This letter was the result of several meetings where the advisory council received presentations on the SEL. Two advisory council members chose to draft a support letter that was presented to the advisory council for adoption. The letter was addressed to Secretary of Commerce John Bryson, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta. The advisory council felt that without the reactivation of the SEL local communities would be limited in their efforts to establish a national marine sanctuary in their area.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 18, 2012

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recruits for new Marine Resource Council seat

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council is in the process of filling a new seat on the advisory council: a non-voting Marine Resource Committee seat. Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) are local science-based groups on Washington's Outer Coast that promote marine resource stewardship and restoration. Two MRCs, the Grays Harbor MRC and the North Pacific Coast MRC (both formed in 2009), work in the sanctuary region and have

become close partners with the sanctuary in recent years. Citizen-based, the MRCs have greatly increased the involvement of local communities in the sanctuary's, and other partners', education, science and stewardship efforts.

In May and June, an Advisory Council sub-committee met and recommended two applicants for selection to the Sanctuary Superintendent. At the beginning of July, OCNMS officially offered the primary and alternate positions to two people, one of whom has accepted (the primary). OCNMS is still waiting to hear from the second candidate. OCNMS expects to announce the new appointees in a press release in the near future, as well as at the upcoming July 13, 2012 advisory council meeting.